

# Sackville News

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020



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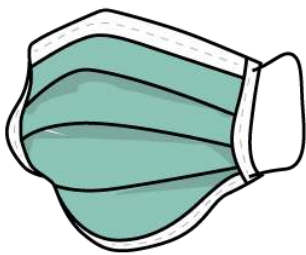
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Dear Parents and Carers

I know we did say that *Sackville News* would not necessarily be weekly any more ... but one thing we have learnt this year is that things change and sometimes shorter more regular communication can help us all, so here we are with another edition!

Firstly, a reminder that **next Friday** is our **open day**. This means that **students do not need to be in school**. In a usual year this would be used as an INSET day, with open evening on the day before. Instead, this year to keep **visitors COVID-secure**, we are welcoming visitors in small groups during the day. Sixty parents and year 6 students will visit at a time, and will be welcomed with a socially-distanced **presentation** in the hall. They will then be divided into **ten separate tour groups of a maximum of six people** to be taken round the school on separate routes.

I'm afraid to say that this does mean we cannot accommodate as many visitors as we normal would. We have used an online booking system and limited visitors to year 6 families, one parent per family. We were very quickly fully booked, with some early bird folk online at midnight to secure tickets!



Guidance on the **use of face-coverings** in public places has evolved over recent weeks, and we are also learning more about the age groups in which the virus is most prevalent. Because of this we are asking **sixth formers to wear masks when travelling between lessons or study rooms from next Monday (14<sup>th</sup> September)**. Students will receive advice about the importance of good mask hygiene by email and in tutorial time.

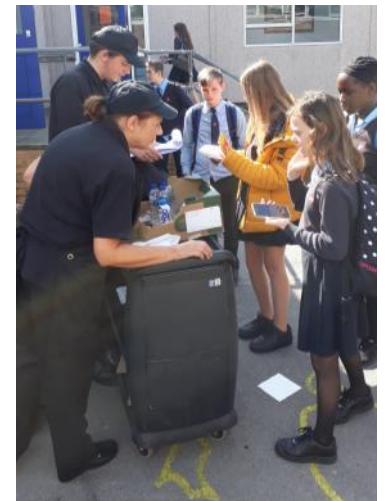
The wonderful Indian summer helps, of course, but we are nevertheless delighted with the way the **new lunch arrangements** are working. Though the lunch break is now a shortened 25 minutes, students have as much time to eat as before since they no longer have to travel to get to and from their year areas. The use of the new *Fusion App* for ordering is working very well, with food delivered to the year bases. It's quite a service!

As the autumn draws in, some students will no doubt have to **self-isolate and take COVID tests**. I would like to remind parents and carers that a student cannot return to school until either ten days have elapsed since the first symptoms, or until there is a negative COVID test result. In this latter case we need to see a screengrab of the result before the student returns. This should be emailed to Mrs N Beeney our attendance officer at [nbeeney@sackvilleschool.org.uk](mailto:nbeeney@sackvilleschool.org.uk).

Finally, I am very happy to share some of the feedback we have had about our new year 7 students. Our staff have been mightily impressed with how this group of young people have settled in, and it is good to hear they are enjoying themselves!

With best wishes for a fine weekend.

Julian Grant  
Headteacher



*"In such difficult times, in such unusual circumstances you have done a great job in making sure the new arrivals are going in the right direction. My son has been beaming since Thursday and I would like you to pass on our thanks to the rest of the team in year 7 and the teachers who have made the whole thing such an experience for them all."*

*"I just wanted to say thank you to you and all of the staff that have worked so hard to make the start of secondary school as smooth and easy as possible for the new year 7's. Our daughter has come home buzzing and is really excited and looking forward to her Sackville journey. She has not stopped talking since she started on Thursday!"*

*"Thank you to you and all of the Year 7 teachers for making the start of their Sackville school life so great. Our daughter has really enjoyed settling into the new 'norm'. It's also reassuring to know that she is in safe hands."*